

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 EB-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 COME-00
OMB-01 /128 W

-----017259 310800Z /11

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0932

USMISSION USUN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: POR, PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: UNSC CONSIDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE

REF: STATE 259771

1. SUMMARY. IN 40-MINUTE MEETING WITH EXTAFF MINISTER MOGWE
ARRANGED FOR 7:30 P.M. (LOCAL) SUNDAY. I WENT THROUGH POINTS
REFTEL PARA 4. HE (A) REVIEWED GOB POLICY ON SANCTIONS AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA, (B) ACKNOWLEDGED MERITS OF DELAYING VOTE IF
AFRICAN RESOLUTIONS FACED CERTAIN VETO (THUS SENDING A MISLEADING
SIGNAL TO SAG) 2ND (C) CRITICIZED WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR HALF-HEARTED
ANTI-SAG RESOLUTION AND
WEAKER ACTIONS TO DATE, DESPITE AVOWEDLY RACIST REGIME WHICH HE
REPEATEDLY COMPARED TO HITLER'S AND DESERVING OF SAME FATE.
AFTER WEIGHING OUR REQUEST, MOGWE SAID HE FELT IT IMPORTANT ENOUGH
TO RAISE WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA. HE PROMISED TO LET US KNOW GOB'S
DECISION AND TO INSTRUCT BOTSWANA'S PERMREP BEFORE 9 A.M.
OCTOBER 31. END SUMMARY.

2. MOGWE'S FIRST REACTION TO MY PRESENTATION WAS TO ASK WHY THE
WESTERN COUNTRIES OBJECTED TO THE AFRICAN RESOLUTIONS; IN REPLY
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I REVIEWED POINTS PARA 7 REFTTEL. HE RECALLED GOB'S POLICY ON
SACTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, VIZ., WHILE GOB'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS
DICTATE OPPOSITION TO SANCITIONS, THIS THE GOB "CERTAINLY COULD
NEVER DO" FOR POLITICAL REASONS; IT THEREFORE ABSTAINS "AND KEEPS
A LOW PROFILE".

3. MOGWE DEPLORED THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF U.N. ACTIONS TO DATE

AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, NOTING THAT BOTH AFRICAN AND WESTERN RESOLUTIONS RECALLED PREVIOUS ARMS EMBARGOS FOR EXAMPLE. (THIS GAVE ME OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE NOT ONLY THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF ANY VETOED RESOLUTIONS BUT THE RISK OF MISLEADING SOUTH AFRICANS.) HE WONDERED IF THE TIME HAD NOT COME TO FIRE ALL AMMUNITION" AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA RATHER THAN PROCEED ONE STEP AT A TIME. HE THOUGHT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR POLITE PARRYING; THE SAG HAD CLEARLY REVEALED RACISM REMINISCENT OF HITLER'S REGIME WHICH HAD TO BE DESTROYED DESPITE THE TREMENDOUS COST OF WAR. I RECALLED OUR COMMITMENT AS A COUNTRY WITH EXPERIENCE IN WARS, TO PEACEFUL MEANS OF SOLVING PROBLEMS. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS MENTION OF OIL EMBARGO IN ANY OF THE RESOLUTIONS; THIS HE SAID WOULD BE A SIGN OF SERIOUSNESS. I RECALLED US WAS NOT A SUPPLIER OF OIL FOR SAG AND PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZING MEANINGFUL CONTROLS OF OIL SHIPMENTS.

4. AFTER CAREFULLY DISCUSSING AND WEIGHING BOTH SIDES, MOGWE CONCLUDED HE SHOULD TAKE THE ISSUE TO PRESIDENT KHAMA. HE INDICATED HE PERSONALLY FAVORED INSTRUCTING BOTSWANA'S PERMREP TO WORK QUIETLY FOR DELAY OF VOTE AND GIVE AFRICAN AND WESTERN COUNTRIES A CHANCE TO WORK OUT A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD BE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY IN UNSC. HE REASONED THAT BENIN AND LIBYA WOULD OPPOSE (AND SOVIETS WOULD THEREFORE VETO) ANY WESTERN RESOLUTION THAT WAS JUDGED UNACCEPTABLE TO AFRICANS, JUST AS WESTERN SC MEMBERS WERE PREPARED TO VETO AFRICAN RESOLUTIONS. SUCH A STANDOFF WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL.
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HE SAID HE WOULD LET US KNOW WHAT INSTRUCTIONS ARE FINALLY SENT TO AMB. TLOU AND WOULD ASSURE THAT IT IS DONE BY 9 A.M. NEW YORK TIME OCT 31.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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